

Message Text

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20

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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P R 210954Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4463

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMNR SHAPE

EUCOM

USDOCOLOANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

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USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: MPOL, PFOR, TU, CY

SUBJ: TURKISH TROOP WITHDRAWALS FROM CYPRUS

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REF: ANKARA 7173 (DTG 181000Z SEP 76) NOTAL

1. TURK CYPRIOT PRESS WIDELY REPORTED CEREMONIES HELD IN FAMAGUSTA SEPT 17 FOR DEPARTING TURKISH TROOPS. TURKISH CYPRIOT NEWS AGENCY (TAK), QUOTING UNIDENTIFIED SOURCES, REPORTED THAT 3,000 OFFICERS AND MEN HAD DEPARTED, BRINGING TOTAL TROOP DEPARTURES TO 14,000 AND CURRENT STRENGTH TO 20-25,000. TAK ALSO REPORTED THAT ADDITIONAL UNIT NUMBERING 300 WOULD BE WITHDRAWN SHORTLY.

2. TURK CYPRIOT LEADER DENKTASH, ASKED TO COMMENT ON WITHDRAWALS, SAID THAT IT WAS NATURAL FOR TURKISH FORCES IN CYPRUS TO BE REDUCED AS SECURITY SITUATION STABILIZED AND THAT MORE UNITS WILL BE WITHDRAWN AFTER TURKISH CYPRIOT SECURITY FORCE IS REORGANIZED.

3. COMMENT: IF OUR MEMORY SERVES US CORRECTLY, TURKF HJVE FORMALLY ANNOUNCED CN PAST TRMOP REDUCTIONS TALLING 12,000. THUS, IF NEW TOTAL OF 14,000 IS ACCURATE, EITHER PREVIOUS REDUCTIONS WERE LESS THAN THOSE ANNOUNCED OR CURRENT REDUCTION IS LESS THAN 3,000 REPORTED IN PRESS. DAO CYPRUS ESTIMATED IN AUGUST THAT TURKISH TROOP STRENGTH IN CYPRUS WAS ON THE HIGH SIDE OF 25-28,000 RANGE. ALLOWING FOR SOME INACCURACY ON SLIPPAGE IN REPORTED 3,000-MAN FIGURE FOR RECENT REDUCTION, WE BELIEVE CURRENT TROOP LEVELS TO BE IN 23-26,000 RANGE.
CRAWFORD

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Message Attributes

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